the Ladder

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october
1958

purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications——this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

the Ladder

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THE LADDER is regarded as a sounding board for various points of view on the homophile and related subjects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

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COVER BY KRIS DODDS

AND NOW WE ARE 3 ...

WE ARE CONSTANTLY RECEIVING INQUIRIES AS TO THE ORIGIN AND MEANING OF THE NAME DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION (ASIDE FROM THE TENETS PRINTED ON THE INSIDE COVER), WHAT PROGRESS WE ARE MAKING TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THESE GOALS, WHY A SEPARATE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION INDEPENDENT OF ONE, INC. AND THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY.

AS WE CELEBRATE THIS MONTH THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF DOB AND TWO FULL YEARS OF PUBLISHING THE LADDER, IT MIGHT BE WELL TO TAKE TIME OUT AND ANSWER THESE QUERIES.

THE NAME OF THE GROUP WAS TAKEN FROM THE NARRATIVE POEM "SONGS OF BILITIS" BY PIERRE LOUYS. THE "SONGS" ARE REPRESENTED AS BEING WRITTEN BY BILITIS, A POETESS LIVING ON LESBOS AT THE TIME OF SAPPHO.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION AS PRINTED ON THE INSIDE COVER IS PRECISELY WHAT IT STATES. OUR PROGRESS? MOSTLY IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND EDUCATION OF THE VARIANT TO DATE. PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE SOCIETY HAS BEEN THE MONTHLY "GAB 'N JAVA" SESSIONS, AN INFORMAL TALK FEST WHERE THE GIRLS CAN SPEAK "OFF THE CUFF".

OUR PUBLIC DISCUSSION MEETINGS HAVE FEATURED SPEAKERS FROM A VARIETY OF PROFESSIONS: ATTORNEYS, PSYCHIATRISTS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, A COLLEGE PROFESSOR, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION. TOPICS HAVE INCLUDED FEAR, THE LAW, CIVIL LIBERTIES, EMPLOYMENT, RELIGION.

OUR LIBRARY, WHICH IS FOREVER GROWING THANKS TO VARIOUS DONORS, CONTAINS BOOKS AND PERIODICALS RANGING FROM STRICTLY HOMOPHILE SUBJECTS TO THE BETTER-KNOWN CLASSICAL WORKS.

WE HAVE TWO RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS AT THE PRESENT TIME: CASE HISTORIES OF LESBIANS BEING GATHERED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS - THIS WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SAN FRANCISCO PSYCHIATRIST; A SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEY COMPOSED, CONDUCTED AND COMPILED BY THE DOB RESEARCH COMMITTEE. ANYONE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN EITHER

OF THESE PROJECTS IS ASKED TO WRITE TO THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE AT THE DAUGHTERS' OFFICE, 165 O'FARRELL ST., SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA.

OUR FIRST VENTURE INTO THE QUESTION OF CHANGING OUTMODED LAWS APPEARED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1958 ISSUE OF THE LADDER - "OPEN LETTER TO ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN A. O'CONNELL".

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORGANIZATION, THE LADDER HAS GROWN IN TWO YEARS' TIME FROM A 12-PAGE MIMEOGRAPHED NEWSLETTER TO A 28-PAGE MAGAZINE THAT IS DRAWING WORLDWIDE ATTENTION.

CONSIDERING THAT ALL THESE ACTIVITIES ARE CONDUCTED ON A PART TIME, VOLUNTARY BASIS WITH LIMITED FUNDS, WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE DONE RATHER WELL SO FAR IN THE PURSUIT OF THE AIMS OF THE ORGANIZATION. WHILE THE MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN FROM 8 TO 70, THERE IS STILL ONLY A SMALL WORKING NUCLEUS.

THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS WAS FOUNDED AS A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION PRIOR TO ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXISTENCE OF EITHER ONE, INC., OR MATTACHINE SOCIETY. THE RECEPTION WE RECEIVED BY THESE TWO GROUPS ON MUTUAL DISCOVERY WAS "WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME - WELCOME TO THE FOLD!" FOR PRIOR TO THE INCIDENCE OF THE DOB, ONLY A FEW WOMEN HAD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF EITHER ORGANIZATION. AND IT IS NOW A PRETTY WELL ESTABLISHED FACT THAT THE BEST WAY TO DRAW THE LESBIAN INTO THE HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT (WHICH DATES BACK TO 1950 WITH THE FORMING OF THE ORIGINAL MATTACHINE FOUNDATION) IS THROUGH AN EXCLUSIVELY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION. WE ARE NOT IN ANY WAY COMPETING WITH MATTACHINE OR ONE (IT IS THANKS TO THEM THAT WE HAVE GROWN AS RAPIDLY AS WE HAVE!) AND HAVE PARTICIPATED IN MUTUAL ACTIVITIES. LAST FALL UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF DOB, ONE INSTITUTE OFFERED A FULL WEEK'S LECTURE SERIES IN SAN FRANCISCO.

PLANS ARE NOW IN PROGRESS FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL CHAPTERS OF THE DAUGHTERS IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY AND LOS ANGELES. ANYONE LIVING IN THESE AREAS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED SHOULD WRITE AT ONCE TO DOB HEADQUARTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

DEL MARTIN, PRESIDENT
DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

Masquerade

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The night was dark velvet, and the moon, a round golden sequin, was its only ornament. A cool wind whispered among the rattling leaves of the trees a sibilant farewell to the departing month of October. "All Hallow's Eve", it seemed to say, "All Hallow's Eve. . ."

The bright lights of Jack's black convertible sent shadows scurrying as he drove through the dark thoroughfares. Deftly, he guided the sleek car, as sure of his mastery over the automobile as over the slim, blonde girl at his side.

In town, the streets were bright with lights. Grinning jack o'lanterns, grotesquely shaped into likenesses of black cats, pumpkins and skulls, swayed back and forth along the main avenue.

Roxanne adjusted the gossamer sheer cape over her shoulders. "It's rather chilly", she ventured.

Jack grunted an assent and kept both hands on the wheel.

"Jack."

"Yeah?"

"Don't you like my Cleopatra costume?"

"Sure, honey, it's a dream. Why?"

"Oh - you didn't show much enthusiasm. And when a girl puts as much time and effort into it as I did . . ."

Jack gave her a half-hearted pat on the shoulder. "Oh, men aren't as observing as girls over those little details."

Roxanne winced over the "those little details" and Jack hurriedly amended, "and besides, I can't see so well with this darned mask over my face."

"You can see well enough to drive," Roxanne observed, "and will probably see well enough to single out that Lawrence girl for a few dances," she added mentally, to herself.

"Jack stretched one arm lazily along the top of the seat around Roxanne's shoulders.

"Jack."

"Yeah?"

"Is she going to be at the masquerade tonight?"

"Who?"

"You know who. Donna Lawrence."

"I suppose so. It doesn't make much difference. We'll all be masked until midnight."

"But you know what costume she's wearing, don't you?" It was a statement more than a question.

Jack grimaced with annoyance. "Look here, Roxanne. I'm sick of your prying into my affairs and I'm not going to give you any satisfactory answer. If I told you I knew what costume she's wearing, you'd watch me like a hawk all evening and keep track of how many dances I had with her. As it is, you'll just have to watch me dancing with a good many different partners and figure it out for yourself. I suppose at any rate you'll work yourself up into one of your jealous rages."

Roxanne didn't bother to answer, lapsed into a stony silence, and nervously began to twist the diamond engagement ring on her finger.

Jack jammed on the brakes just in time for a stop signal. He half turned toward his blonde companion and spoke with an unmistakeable note of condescension in his voice.

"Roxanne, you'll just have to learn that with men flirting is an accepted thing. It just isn't their nature to focus all their attention on one woman forever. Men who profess to do so are mere hypocrites."

Roxanne didn't answer. She knew Jack spoke the truth. She blinked back tears of resentment. This was the man she was going to marry, the man she would swear to love, honor and obey all her life. Honor! Obey, perhaps, but never honor. She couldn't back out now. There were their families to consider. The cold, calculating families, who thought this such a mutually profitable marriage. Lambeth Stocks and Bonds marrying Grandon Oil Investments. It wasn't a marriage of two individuals; it was the merging of two large corporations.

Jack swerved into a parking lot and braked his car to a stop. "Come on, baby, cheer up," he grinned. His lips brushed against her cheek and his breath smelled of beer and stale cigars.

It was extremely warm inside the swank Garden City Country Club. A large dance band, seated on an orange and black dais, blared forth the latest dance tunes. Appropriate Hallowe'en decorations lent a garish yet eerie atmosphere to the enormous hall. The place was crowded with Hallowe'en revellers, all masked and attired in a variety of weird costumes.

Roxanne led the way to a cozy table for two near the dance floor, conscious that her glittering and revealing costume attracted many admiring glances. She seated herself and drew the cape more tightly around her shoulders.

"What do you want to drink, dear?" Jack asked as a waiter hovered near.

Orders given, Jack arose. "Would you excuse me for a moment," he murmured.

Roxanne watched his retreating back disappear in the crowd.

Her drink was more than half finished when he returned. "Sorry, honey, but I got tied up with Willie Thomas, the

band vocalist, and he insisted on buying me a drink. You remember my old pal, Willie, don't you?"

"Sure, I remember Willie," Roxanne replied. She also remembered that Willie Thomas had been singing most of the time, and had been in full view of the audience during the time that Jack was gone.

"Would you care to dance?"

"Love to," Roxanne murmured mechanically as she rose from her chair.

The music changed from fast tempo to something slow and languid. The dancing couples swayed slowly back and forth around the floor. Roxanne closed her eyes, her thoughts a million miles away. "This is boring," she thought.

A slight collision with another couple on the crowded floor made Roxanne open her eyes again. "Oops, sorry!" Jack hastily apologized.

Roxanne's gaze became focussed on Jack's velvet pirate jacket. A single red hair adhered there. "That Lawrence girl!" she thought viciously and then, more rationally, "why, it could have come from any of the dancers passing by." Roxanne knew better, though.

The music ended and they made their way back to their table. A waiter hesitated near them and peered at Jack's mask.

"Mr. Jack Grandon? I was told that this was your table."

"Yes, I'm Jack Grandon."

"Telephone call for you, sir."

"Thanks. Will you excuse me a minute?"

The "minute" turned out to be about half an hour. Roxanne petulantly toyed with the melting ice in her glass and searched the milling crowd for Jack.

"He <u>would</u> have to wear a pirate costume," she fumed. At

least a dozen men here are outfitted in costumes very similar. But that's Jack - no originality."

Roxanne thought she saw Jack dancing at the far end of the floor with a red-haired mermaid encased in emerald sequins. A second glimpse assured her. "Yes, that is surely he; I recognize the red and yellow stripe in the bandanna around his head. And that's the Lawrence girl."

Oddly enough, she no longer felt jealous. "It's because I don't love him," she thought. "I've just now realized I don't love him. I may have once, but I don't now!"

Therefore, it was completely without malice or thought of jealous retaliation that she accepted the invitation to dance with the tall cloaked stranger a moment later. "This is a boring evening. I may as well make the best of it," she mused.

Aloud she said, "Count Dracula, isn't it?"

The slender, black clad figure acknowledged Roxanne's question with a formal click of the heels and a bow from the waist.

"Dracula" led masterfully. "An exceedingly graceful dancer," Roxanne mentally noted, "and a very clever costume."

The black tuxedo was of foreign cut, the trousers tailored in a tight-fitting manner reminiscent of Spanish bull fighters. Black gloves and an Inverness cape with an all-concealing hood completed the outfit. It was impossible to tell whether Roxanne's partner was blond or brunette, young or old.

"Your costume is certainly original and appropriate for the occasion," laughed Roxanne.

Her partner accepted the compliment by a slight nod of the head.

"Do I know you?" Roxanne asked.

(Continued on page 26)

Mattachine Convention

Prognosis Is Hopeful

Two points kept recurring during the 5th annual Mattachine Society convention held over Labor Day weekend in New York: that the homosexual must educate the masses of people in order to gain social acceptance; and that, though great strides have been made in acceptance in the past 10 years, a great deal remains to be done, both socially and legally, although the prognosis is hopeful.

A distinguished roster of speakers made the convention a stimulating and thought-provoking experience for those attending. Held on the 30ths floor of the Barbizon-Plaza Hotel, overlooking Central Park on one side and downtown New York on the other, the convention program marked a high spot in the history of homosexual organizations.

Included among the speakers were Fannie Hurst, author and moderator of the TV program "Showcase"; Judge Morris Ploscowe, New York attorney and jurist; Donald Webster Cory, author of "The Homosexual in America" and "Homosexuality: a Cross-Cultural Approach"; Kenneth C. Zwerin, San Francisco, an international attorney who practices in Europe and the Far East as well as in the United States; The Rev. Edward Egan, Jr.; Dr. Theodore S. Weiss, Senior Psychiatrist at Bellevue Hospital.

LEGAL BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

Called upon to prognosticate the future with reference to the homosexual, Mr. Zwerin reminded the convention that he was neither a prophet nor a son of a prophet. He pointed out, however, that 10 years ago it would have been impossible to hold a convention of this nature in a first class hotel. In fact, 10 years ago any origanizations using the word homosexual would have been summarily banned.

"We have come a long way in 10 years. Literature now abounds in the field, the subject has come out in the early

morning sun." Mr. Zwerin paid tribute to the pioneering efforts of ONE Magazine and the Mattachine Review, and to the dedicated work of such people as Hal Call, editor of the Review, and D. Stewart Lucas, executive secretary of the Mattachine Society, both of whom have been active with the Society since its inception.

The attorney pointed out that the Kinsey reports did a great deal in softening the public's attitudes. He also stressed the importance of the Wolfenden Report in England. "Although most people know little about this report, it has been debated in public and approved by churches in England, even though it has not been made into law."

Referring to a recent case in California in which he successfully defended a young man charged with violating the state's registration law for sex offenders (see THE LADDER, June, 1958, page 20) before the Appellate Court, thereby securing a partial clarification of the law, Mr. Zwerin declared: "The very fact that we could argue such a case before a court is indicative of happier times."

"As long as we have a government of law we must accept it. Changes in the law must come through the state legislatures."

Mr. Zwerin pointed out that it is not a crime to be a homosexual. The law forbids certain specific sexual acts. "The law does not differentiate between homosexual and heterosexual practices in this respect," he added.

By and large, he declared, the civil rights of individuals are protected. When they are not it is usually because the individual does not urge his rights and/or his attorney takes the line of least resistance.

In summary, Mr. Zwerin expressed his doubts that there will be any great changes in the state legislatures or in human nature in the next 10 years. "But something may happen as a result of the work of people like Dr. Harry Benjamin, Robert Lindner and Albert Ellis, people who are not afraid of speaking out.

"I seem to bring you a message not of great hope, but not great despair."

THE QUIET, SUBTLE WORKINGS OF GOD

The Reverend C. Edward Egan, Jr., in giving the luncheon address, made it clear that "I do not speak from a denominational or official point of view - only from the gospel of hope and personal conviction as a Christian and a churchman."

He pointed out that all too many of us have preconceptions of Deity, that we "look high up and too far away."

"I see the quiet, subtle workings of God in many individuals working together, in the quiet clarification of the sexual deviant issue through groups such as Mattachine, in the increasing willingness of the homosexual to accept society and in society to accept the homosexual."

Reverend Egan enumerated the many social changes going on to shed increasing light on the subject of homosexuality: the new Havelock Ellis Center in London for treatment of homosexuals; handling of the subject in technical journals, novels, the theater and non-fiction books; the move towards more liberal laws exemplified in England's Wolfenden Report and Michigans' "Citizens Handbook"; recognition of the problem by the churches in the Moral Welfare Council in England and the "Pastoral Psychology" publication.

"Society is still confused," he conceded, "But it is not so easy to fool the people about deviation as it was 20 years ago."

While much good can be accomplished by organizations like the Mattachine Society, Reverend Egan pointed out the dangers of such groups: overzealousness in "cause" consciousness; could become "camping grounds or mutual defense leagues; might become too sophisticated and intellectual thereby developing an attitude of superiority to the heterosexual; could exchange one kind of mass-mindedness to another.

The minister said he would like to see a study made of homosexual couples who have reached a semblance of understanding and stability and who have assumed personal and social responsibility. He would like to know how

they worked out their social and economic problems - what factors build and which ones threatedn.

"A person is not cut off from the love of God by reason of sexual deviation," he declared. "But often the homosexual cuts himself off."

In generalizing on homosexuals acts, we must be careful in condoning as well as condeming, Reverehd Egan asserted, for no act can be judged wholly by itself without reference to the situation.

"God is the final and ultimate judge of an act of character. The judgment of a community is not definitive, but is itself under the judgment of God."

The clergman recommended Seward Hiltner's book, "Sex and the Christian Life," published by the Association Press, New York.

He concluded, "That which God hath made, let not man despise."

RISE AND FALL OF HOMOSEXUAL MOVEMENTS

Mr. Cory also touched on the differences in attitudes on homosexuality over the ages. He cited the opprobrium heaped on Oscar Wilde in 1895, when people threw rocks at him and his sons changed their name, as opposed to the first appearance about two years ago of an actor who had been arrested on a similar charge. The actor received the greatest ovation of his career, the audience stampeded and his leading lady embraced him.

He pointed out that there have been three movements in modern times dedicated to changing the laws and public opinion with regard to homosexuality, and he pointed what these groups have done wrong.

The first movement began in Germany under the aegis of Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld. This group believed in the concept that the homosexual was born that way. Dr. Hirschfeld made thousands of measurements and showed statistically that homosexuals were physiologically different. Dr. Sigmund Freud

laid the foundation for rejection of this idea by showing a psychological orientation. The group persisted, however, believing that if the public could be convinced homosexuals were born that way they would have to accept them.

The second movement started in England around 1900, sparked by Havelock Ellis, Edward Carpenter, John Addington Symonds and Radclyffe Hall. This group was dedicated to the concept that homosexuality was a pure and noble love in which the physical manifestation was incidental and unfortunate. It was a mid-Victorian and anti-sexual approach, assuming that if the public could be convinced such love was pure and noble and monogamous it would accept.

"I believe we are in danger of a third movement based on a third psychologically untrue orientation," Mr. Cory declared. This would be the fallacy that although homosexuality is psychogenic in origin the homosexuals are not more maladjusted, neurotic, etc., than the population at large, and where they are more disturbed it is caused by the social pressures. "This is untrue," he stated, "because as evaluation it is motivated by the fact that such a picture will make this life more palatable to the public. There are great anxieties and disturbances among large masses of homosexuals - there have to be. Some people feel this picture hinders understanding. I don't know why."

Mr. Cory pointed out that regardless of disturbances and anxieties the homosexuals still deserve the rights due them under the Constitution and laws of the land. "So why distort the point of view? Full rights are justifiable regardless."

He believes organizations such as Mattachine should have a dual purpose - "seek to do all possible to orient everyone in and out of the group to an understanding of the full rights of human beings; and do all possible to reorient the direction of individuals elsewhere but if not possible help them orient to homosexuality and live a happy life."

(Continued on page 21)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

THIS MONTH, THE DOB, AS AN ORGANIZATION, IS CELEBRATING ITS THIRD ANNIVERSARY, THE LADDER, OUR SPEAKING VOICE, IS ALSO ENDING ITS SECOND YEAR OF PUBLICATION.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE DUE--AND THOSE OF US HERE IN THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OWN DEL MARTIN AND PHYL LYON.

DEL AND PHYL ARE THE ONLY TWO REMAINING OF THE ORIGINAL HALF-DOZEN CHARTER MEMBERS WHO DREAMED AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE DREAM OF AN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THIS. IT HAS BEEN THE STRIVING, THE COURAGE, AND THE DETERMINATION OF THESE TWO PEOPLE WHO FORMED THE GLUE (COMPOSED OF TEARS, SWEAT, PRIDE, PRAYER AND STICK-TO-IT-ISM) THAT HAS HELD THIS EMBRYO TOGETHER THROUGH THE TOUGH (AND SOMETIMES DISAPPOINTING) EARLY YEARS. MANY TIMES, WHEN DEL AND PHYL WERE READY TO GIVE UP COMPLETELY--ALONG WOULD COME A LETTER FROM ANOTHER STATE--ANOTHER LAND--OR A NEW ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBER WOULD JOIN THE RANKS, ENCOURAGING THEM ENOUGH TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE.

AND IT HAS BEEN THREE YEARS OF HARD STRUGGLE AND DEEP DISAPPOINTMENTS. MEMBERSHIP WOULD SWELL, THEN DROP. PUBLICATIONS COSTS ROSE HIGHER AND HIGHER AS WE TRIED TO DEVELOP A BETTER MAGAZINE--WHILE OUR BANK ACCOUNT DWINDLED ALMOST TO OBLIVION. BUT THE COUNTLESS HOURS AND ENORMOUS ENERGY OF DEL AND PHYL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNSELFISHLY AND GRACIOUSLY GIVEN. AND THESE ENDEAVORS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO REAP WELL-EARNED DIVIDENDS--FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST TO THE LADDER IS INCREASING WITH EACH EDITION--OUR MEMBERSHIP, ITSELF, IS ON A GOOD UP-SWING, AND NOW--LIKE ANY OTHER THREE YEAR OLD--WE ARE BEGINNING TO GROW AND DEMANDING TO BE HEARD.

TO YOU, DEL AND PHYL, AS THE BACKBONE AND QUIET STRENGTH OF THIS ORGANIZATION--AND AS TWO VERY FINE AND WONDERFUL PEOPLE--WE, THE REST OF THE DAUGHTERS, SEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS AND OUR SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS THIRD ANNIVERSARY! MAY THERE BE MANY MORE!

Research Experts Report On Homosexual Studies

"WE ARE MAMMALS AND SO HAVE INHERITED FROM OUR BACKGROUND CERTAIN TRAITS. IN SOME 60,000 FEET OF FILM ON ANIMAL SEX BEHAVIOR WE HAVE FOUND THAT THERE IS NO SPECIES OF MAMMAL WITHOUT HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS - AND NOT NECESSARILY BECAUSE THE MALE WAS DEPRIVED OF THE FEMALE."

SO STATED DR. WARDELL B. POMEROY, DIRECTOR OF FIELD RESEARCH FOR THE INSTITUTE OF SEX RESEARCH AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY AND CO-AUTHOR WITH THE LATE DR. ALFRED C. KINSEY OF THE RENOWNED "KINSEY REPORTS", AT THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY PUBLIC DISCUSSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 8 IN THE WENDELL WILKIE MEMORIAL BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY.

DR. POMEROY THEN POSED THE QUESTION - WHY DOESN'T EVERYBODY HAVE HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONS? AND HIS REPLY - BECAUSE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

IN A STUDY OF 193 CULTURES, DR. POMEROY POINTED OUT THAT 28% ACCEPTED MALE HOMOSEXUALITY, 14% REJECTED, AND THE BALANCE EQUIVOCATED. IN THESE SAME CULTURES 11% ACCEPTED FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY, 10% REJECTED, 79% EQUIVOCATED.

"OUR OWN CULTURE IS ABOUT AS INHIBITED OR RESTRICTED AS ANY IN THE WORLD," HE DECLARED. "CHRISTIAN MORES STEM FROM JUDAISM SOME SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS B.C. WHEN THE RETURN FROM EXILE BROUGHT RIGID CHANGES. PRIOR TO THIS TIME THERE HAD BEEN ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. BUT SINCE THE ADVENT OF CHRISTIANITY MORES HAVE NOT CHANGED. THE EXPRESSION 'CRIME AGAINST NATURE' IS THE DIRECT WORDING FROM THE TALMUD."

IN QUOTING STATISTICS FROM THE KINSEY STUDIES ON MALE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, DR. POMEROY POINTED OUT THE VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EXCLUSIVE HOMOSEXUAL AND THE INDIVIDUAL HAVING HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONS. OUT OF 10,000 CASES, 37% HAD AT LEAST ONE OVERT

HOMOSEXUAL EXPERIENCE TO THE POINT OF ORGASM AND 50% HAD BEEN AROUSED BY HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY. OF THESE CASES 18% HAD AS MUCH HOMOSEXUAL AS HETEROSEXUAL EXPERIENCE FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE YEARS, 14% MORE HOMOSEXUAL THAN HETEROSEXUAL EXPERIENCE FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD, 8% EXCLUSIVE HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY FOR THREE YEARS, AND 4% HAD HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONS EXCLUSIVELY THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFETIMES.

"THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN EDUCATIONAL LEVEL. ALSO THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN RELIGIOUS DEVOUTNESS," THE SCIENTIST ASSERTED. HE ADDED THAT RELIGION CAN BRING SOMEONE INTO HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY THROUGH DENIAL.

DR. POMEROY WENT ON TO STATE HIS VIEWS OF WHY HOMOSEXUALITY CONTINUES AS A PATTERN OF SEX BEHAVIOR DESPITE SOCIAL TABOOS. HE SAID THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS PART AND PARCEL OF OUR MAMMALIAN INHERITANCE. HE IS NOT CONVINCED THAT THERE IS ANY HORMONAL CONDITION, NOR AN INDIVIDUAL INHERITANCE THROUGH THE GENES OR CHROMOSOMES.

"HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR CAN BE DEVELOPED FOR NEGATIVE REASONS - AS A REACTION TO UNFAVORABLE HETEROSEXUAL EXPERIENCES," HE STATED. "OR IT MAY DEVELOP FROM PLEASURABLE EXPERIENCE IN EARLY CONDITIONING."

DR. POMEROY SAID HE WAS SKEPTICAL OF FREUDIAN CONCEPTS. HE CLAIMED THAT WE ARE BORN WITH A CAPACITY TO RESPOND SEXUALLY, AND HOW WE RESPOND DEPENDS ON ENVIRONMENT. HE DID NOT "SEE" THE FREUDIAN THEORY OF STAGES OF SEX DEVELOPMENT, FOR, AS HE PUT IT, ONE CAN START OUT AS A HOMOSEXUAL AND TURN HETEROSEXUAL, START HETEROSEXUAL AND TURN HOMOSEXUAL, OR START BOTH TYPES OF SEX ACTIVITY SIMULTANEOUSLY.

"THERE MAY BE SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES," DR. POMEROY SAID. HE TOLD THE STORY OF A PSYCHIATRIST WHO TOLD HIM HE HAD NEVER SEEN A HOMOSEXUAL WHO WASN'T NEUROTIC. DR. POMEROY AGREED THAT HE PROBABLY HADN'T AND THEN ASKED - "HOW MANY HETEROSEXUALS HAVE YOU SEEN IN YOUR OFFICE WHO WEREN'T NEUROTIC?"

THE INSTITUTE FOR SEX RESEARCH WAS FOUNDED 20 YEARS AGO BY DR. KINSEY AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY. PRIOR TO THAT TIME KINSEY

HAD SERVED ON THE ZOOLOGICAL FACULTY AND HAD BEEN GIVING A MARRIAGE COURSE. IT WAS THEN THAT HE REALIZED HOW LITTLE WAS REALLY KNOWN ABOUT HUMAN SEX BEHAVIOR. HE SET ABOUT TO GATHER DATA, STARTING AT THE UNIVERSITY AND LATER BROADENING HIS BASE UNTIL SOME 18,000 CASE HISTORIES HAVE BEEN COLLECTED FROM COAST TO COAST AND IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE. THE STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE INCLUDES 10 PEOPLE. IT IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION SEPARATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY. IT DERIVES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY, FROM SALE OF BOOKS AND FROM FOUNDATIONS. THREE MAJOR WORKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED: "SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN MALE", "SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN FEMALE," AND "PREGNANCY, BIRTH AND ABORTION". ANOTHER BOOK ON SEX OFFENDERS SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN ABOUT TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS AND WILL INCLUDE DATA ON HOMOSEXUALITY.

DR. POMEROY EXPECTS TO BE IN SAN FRANCISCO NEXT SPRING AND HAS OFFERED TO SPEAK AT A MEETING OF THE DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS AT THAT TIME. HIS TALK WILL, OF COURSE, BE GEARED TOWARD THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TIME AND PLACE WILL APPEAR IN A FUTURE ISSUE OF THE LADDER.

MALE HOMOSEXUAL ADJUSTMENT

SHARING THE SPOTLIGHT WITH DR. POMEROY AT THE MATTACHINE MEETING WAS DR. EVELYN HOOKER, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES. SHE GAVE A SHORT REVIEW OF HER ALREADY-PUBLISHED RESEARCH STUDY, "THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE MALE OVERT HOMOSEXUAL" AND DISCUSSED ANOTHER RESEARCH PROJECT IN PROGRESS ON THE SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

IN THE FIRST STUDY, DR. HOOKER SAID THAT THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF TESTING WAS THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE HOMOSEXUAL WAS A SERIOUSLY DISORDERED PERSON AND FINDING OUT IF THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN PATHOLOGY AND HOMOSEXUALITY.

SHE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF THE RESEARCHER TO FIND PROPER SUBJECTS. FIRST SHE WANTED REASONABLY WELL ADJUSTED MEN WHO HAD NOT HAD ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP. ALSO SHE NEEDED EXCLUSIVE HOMOSEXUALS AND EXCLUSIVE HETEROSEXUALS - TWO CLEAR-CUT GROUPS. AND THE "EXCLUSIVE" BEHAVIORISTS WERE NOT SO EASILY FOUND! THEN IT WAS NECESSARY TO MATCH

UP THE HOMOSEXUAL AND HETEROSEXUAL SUBJECTS - THAT IS, IF A HOMOSEXUAL SUBJECT WAS 35 YEARS OLD, HAD AN IQ OF 135 AND WAS A COLLEGE GRADUATE, SHE NEEDED TO FIND A HETEROSEXUAL SUBJECT WITH THE SAME QUALIFICATIONS.

AFTER COUNTLESS INTERVIEWS DR. HOOKER WOUND UP WITH 30 GOOD CONTROLS. THESE WERE GIVEN A SERIES OF TESTS AND A LIFE HISTORY WAS COMPILED.

RULING OUT BIAS WAS VERY DIFFICULT, AND A SYSTEM HAD TO BE DEVISED TO PREVENT THE CLINICIANS WHO JUDGED THE TESTS FROM KNOWING WHICH WAS WHICH IN THE ANALYSIS OF ADJUSTMENT, SEX PATTERNS, ETC.

"TWO-THIRDS OF EACH GROUP PROVED BETTER THAN AVERAGE IN ADJUSTMENT, AND THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HOMOSEXUALS AND THE HETEROSEXUAL. THE JUDGES WERE UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE HOMOSEXUAL AND HETEROSEXUAL TESTS," DR. HOOKER DECLARED.

HOWEVER, SHE WARNED THAT WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS. "WE MAY TENTATIVELY DRAW THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS NO INHERENT CONNECTION BETWEEN PATHOLOGY AND THE HOMOSEXUAL, AND WE MAY CONTINUE TO BE SKEPTICAL OF ASSUMPTIONS OF IMMATURITY. FOR THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY, OF COURSE, THAT THIS MIGHT BE A SPECIAL SAMPLING."

IN HER NEW RESEARCH STUDY, DR. HOOKER HOPES TO DESCRIBE THE SOCIAL PATTERN OF THE HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY. HOW DO HOMOSEXUALS MANAGE THEIR LIVES? ONLY A FEW ARE OPENLY HOMOSEXUAL. THERE ARE TWO SECTORS: VISIBLE (GAY BARS AND WORK WHERE HOMOSEXUALITY CAN BE OPENLY ADMITTED) AND THE INVISIBLE (QUIET, DISCREET INDIVIDUALS, MANY OF WHOM ARE MARRIED). WHAT IS SMUG DOMESTICITY LIKE IN THE HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP? THERE IS NO DATA ON HOW THE HOMOSEXUAL LIVES IN THIS HOSTILE SOCIETY.

DR. HOOKER PROPOSES TO STUDY THE VARIOUS TYPES OF HOMOSEXUALS: THE LONE ISOLATE, THE CRUISER, THE ISOLATE IN A HETEROSEXUAL ENVIRONMENT, THE HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE. SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTS THERE ARE FOR THE HOMOSEXUAL, TOPOGRAPHY OF GROUPS, PERMANENCE AND IMPERMANENCE OF FRIENDS, VARIETIES OF "CAMPING", STATUS LEVEL, ROLE OF THE POLICE -

ALL THAT MAKES UP THE ETHNOLOGY OF THE HOMOSEXUAL CULTURE.

MALE HOMOSEXUALS LIVING IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY SHOULD CONTACT THE LOS ANGELES AREA COUNCIL OF THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY. DR. HOOKER EXPRESSED HER GRATITUDE TO THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY FOR ITS COOPERATION IN PROVIDING SUBJECTS FOR HER STUDIES. SHE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND THE KINSEY INSTITUTE FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

BOTH DR. HOOKER AND DR. POMEROY POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN RESEARCH ON HOMOSEXUALITY AND SEX OFFENDERS AND HAS CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY TO THEIR RESEARCH PROJECTS.

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MATTACHINE CONVENTION - THE PROGNOSIS IS HOPEFUL

(Continued from page 15)

PSYCHIATRY AND THE HOMOSEXUAL

Dr. Weiss declared that the best opinions in psychiatry today have not ruled out the constitutional factor with relation to homosexuality. He added that at the present time nothing can be done about this since not enough is known about the subject.

"The ridiculous statement made about a year ago by a New York psychiatrist to the effect that 'all homosexuals are sick and I can cure them' would never be uttered in Europe," the doctor pointed out, adding that one of America's greatest difficulties is that it is always looking for a formula to cure a situation. "Unfortunately, many people believe in formulas.

"I believe that a group like this should use all means to achieve its ends without becoming smug, dogmatic, supporting a Cause, or feeling that the homosexual is better than

the heterosexual - he is neither better nor worse.

"Unfortunately I don't place too much stock in educating the public since the organs of mass information stack opinion. The public is not asked what it thinks, it is told what to think. Your group should concentrate on the lawyers. I have tried to get a psychology course into the law schools, but without success. If we could change the curriculum in law schools we could start to do something."

In the work he has done with prisoners in New York Dr. Weiss has found that the homosexual suffers from social pressures and anxieties. He cannot say, however, that homosexuals have more serious mental illnesses or neuroses than do heterosexuals. He pointed out that half the hospital beds in the country are occupied by mental patients and that the American Medical Association has estimated that there are 20-30 million more people who should be treated for mental illness.

Dr. Weiss feels that social bias against homosexuality will always be with us, but that legal bias should not exist. "We all have biases or we wouldn't be human," he said, "but biases can be kept under control."

In answer to a question from the audience he said that only a small percentage of sexual deviates are child molesters and that there was no evidence to show that this crime was perpetrated more by homosexuals than heterosexuals.

WE MUST REACH THE PEOPLE

Emotional highlight of the convention was, perhaps, the brief opening talk given by Fannie Hurst before the panel discussion, of which she was moderator, began.

Three months before the convention Miss Hurst had never heard of Mattachine nor was she conversant with the homosexual problem per se. Her interest was aroused when the TV program "Showcase", of which she is the moderator, was unceremoniously censored 15 minutes before air time. The subject was to have been female homosexuality following the program of the day before on male homosexuality. (See THE LADDER, March, 1958, page 10).

"I represent the man and woman on the street, " Miss Hurst said, referring to her scant knowledge. "I doubt if my mother ever heard the homosexuality, or would have known what it meant. It seems we have come far when we are even disposed to discuss it."

Miss Hurst pointed out that the discussions at the convention were on a rather intellectual plane, stressing the legal and psychological aspects. "We can never hope," she said, "until the masses of the people understand. The attitude here is good, but you must reach the people.

"Until the great, great gadgets of modern communication throw this message out to the people, with their slow compassions, their slow thinking, in their own idiom, we won't get the understanding necessary. Attitudes being with the people, and they must be told through TV, magazines and the newspapers."

It was pointed out from the floor that press releases on the convention had been sent to all New York newspapers with the result that one paper had sent a reporter who had written an article later killed by his editor as "not fit for a family newspaper."

This did not surprise Miss Hurst. "This just shows the size of the job ahead," she said. "It must be a slow process of erosion." She pointed out that she fully expects her TV sponsors to present the second program on homosexuality previously cancelled. This through pounding and pounding away by herself and others connected with the program.

A lively verbal duel took place between Attorney Zwerin and Psychiatrist Weiss over the latter's reference to the ineptness of law schools.

Mr. Zwerin admitted that the law schools have problems, but feels the real remedy for the homosexual problem lies in the state legislatures, not with the lawyers. "The problem is," he declared, "that we are a government of law and order and it is not the duty of attorneys to avoid or evade the law."

Mr. Cory pointed out that a New York superior court has

ruled that where a policeman's word is unsubstantiated and the defendant denies the charge and has a good character witness he must be found innocent. "The trouble is," he added, "that many attorneys do not know this."

Mr. Zwerin added that the time must come when sexual acts between two consenting adults in private will not be a crime, and when we must change our Judaic-Christian tradition of morality.

HOMOSEXUALS NOT A RACE APART

That sex deviants have an unfortunate tendency to consider themselves as a race apart, the "third sex", or a special group with special privileges was deplored by Judge Ploscowe in his address on "The Law and the Sex Deviant" following the Mattachine Annual Banquet. He mocked the elaborate propaganda characterizing the homosexual as more sensitive, more artistic and more intellectual.

"If you are going to reform penal law, it is not going to be done with this sort of propaganda," he declared. This group to be effective in the change of sex statutes must align itself with heterosexuals who believe that present sex laws do not perform their proper functions."

"He reiterated Kinsey's statement that if criminal sex statutes were enforced, 5% of the population would be supporting the other 95% in jail. This exaggeration, he said points up the fact that generally sex behavior, not the normal intercourse between a married man and his wife, is punishible under present laws.

"Our sex crime laws are an illustration of the American tendency to cure anything and everything by law,"Judge Ploscowe stated.

The current of reform at the present time has been given a big push by Kinsey with his illustrations of how widespread are violations and how many unenforceable "dead letter" statutes are on the books, he said.

In considering reform it is necessary to determine which

sex laws ought to continue on the statute books and which should be dropped. Judge Ploscowe considers a good rule of thumb to be the danger to public interest and cited the following as "musts": Force may not be used; children must be protected from assault; public decencies must be preserved, and prostitution must be suppressed to prevent the spread of disease.

The fundamental basis for the Model Penal Code now being prepared by the American Law Institute in the area of homosexuality is that sex activity in private is one's own business, the jurist said. In Sweden and Belgium there are no statutes against private activity. If the British eliminate prohibitions, some progressive states will follow suit, he added.

CHANGING LAWS IS POLITICAL PROBLEM

Procedure to change laws is basically a political problem, Judge Ploscowe pointed out, and would mean working on state legislators to effect desired changes. "This is not an easy matter, since there is a hostile counter public opinion, and no legislator wants to be accused of favoring adultery or homosexuality."

Despite this factor, there has been some progress made in New York where sodomy had been previously punished up to 20 years and is now considered a misdemeanor with a one year penalty.

Judge Ploscowe took a dim view of sex psychopath laws "passed because people got excited about dangerous sex criminals". He said that the statutes were not phrased to deal with the small group of dangerous criminals, but were drawn so broad as to take in all sorts of minor accounts. He added that the laws were abused and were used primarily against minor offenders. The theory is that sex criminals are supposed to have treatment, but facilities are seldom provided for this.

The 1959 convention of the Mattachine Society will be held in Denver. It is suggested that all who may be interested in attending begin planning now to spend part or all of their vacation in that area.

MASQUERADE - Continued from page 10

"No, you don't - know me," was the whispered answer. "But I have been watching you. I wanted to dance with you."

"You certainly are an excellent dancer, Mr. - er - Dracula," Roxanne commented.

"Not as good as I might be," came the whispered reply. You see, when one is - as I - one's 'circulation' is rather poor." Dracula chuckled almost inaudibly at the feeble pun.

Roxanne fell into the macabre, bantering mood of her partner. "Are you, then, really a vampire, Count Dracula? And why don't you speak above a whisper?"

"There are - ignorant peasants who might term me 'vampire'. As for my whisper, I fear I've lost my voice. Too much coffin."

Roxanne laughed. "Brrr! What a grave statement!"

The band began to play a group of South American rhumbas, sambas and tangos. Strange though "Dracula" might be, Roxanne had to admit that her partner was an excellent dancer. Was it the drinks she had consumed or the constant wild spinning to the music that made her heart pound this way? Jack never danced like this. This was dancing!

Roxanne surrendered herself completely to the intoxicating rhythm. "Dracula's" arm tightened about her bare waist; drew her closer. Undulating, now at a distance, now pressed close, Roxanne felt that her pulses seemed to keep time with the beat of the maracas.

An interval for refreshments with "Dracula", a half-hearted search for Jack, who was no where to be found, and more exciting dances with her mysterious partner gave jet propulsion propensities to the heretofore lagging moments.

"Dracula, don't you think it's time we introduced ourselves?" Roxanne pleaded. "In all seriousness, I would like to know your true identity. Haven't I met you before somewhere? You seem like an old friend - somehow. It's so hard to explain.

Anyway, I shall tell you that my name's Rox..."

"Shhh!" "Dracula" laid a black-globed finger upon her lips. "It is better that we don't exchange names. You and I have come from different planes and our pathes will never cross again. Because this is All Hallow's Eve, we are allowed to mingle, saint and sinner, and to befriend one another, but after tonight this may not be."

There was something so earnest in the whisper in which this melodramatic speech was delivered that Roxanne could not find it in her heart to laugh.

"All right, Mr. Mystery Man. Have it your own way. But I'll find out at the unmasking at twelve o'clock!"

"The unmasking!" "Dracula" exclaimed. "I had forgotten! What time is it?"

"Be calm, we have ten minutes yet." Roxanne glanced at her watch.

The band struck up another tune. Willie Thomas' voice crooned into the microphone one of the latest love songs:

"There's just once place for me...near you..."

"Dracula" dexterously guided Roxanne from the dance floor onto a secluded terrace. "Soon I will have to leave you," the mysterious voice whispered. "Thank you for being such a charming partner."

"You mean you're leaving <u>now</u>, and before the unmasking and costume prizes?" Roxanne asked incredulously.

"I must, my dear."

"My dear..." How beautiful those words sounded, so different, so infinitely more tender, somehow, from the way Jack said them.

"Aren't you really goingto let me know who you are?"

"I mayn't."

"You - you're not married?"

"No," sadly.

"And we shall never meet again?"

"If we do, you will not recognize me," "Dracula" whispered.

Almost before she realized it, Roxanne said, "Then, if you please, kiss me goodbye." Then she stepped back, amazed at her own audacity.

The dark cloaked figure drew her close. Again the whisper, this time, falteringly, "Do you know what you are asking? But no, how could you? The superstitious believe that one who is kissed by such as I - becomes tainted, too."

"I've heard that legend. I'm not superstitious and I will take that risk." Roxanne threw her cape back, baring her white throat for the "vampire kiss".

For a second "Dracula's" mouth fastened there, then sought and found Roxanne's lips. Thinking back upon it later, Roxanne knew that in comparison all other such expressions of affection she had experienced were as nothing. But Roxanne was not concerned with reason or comparison at that moment - that Moment which was so fleeting and yet so interminable.

The sound of the town clock proclaiming the arrival of midnight interrupted them.

"Masks off, everybody!" came the cry from inside the ballroom.

Roxanne could not explain what prompted her action, but impetuously she grasped at "Dracula's" face covering and succeeded in wresting it free. A mass of chestnut curls tumbled down around "Dracula's" head. Two startled green eyes gazed reproachfully into Roxanne's amazed blue orbs.

"A girl!" Roxanne stared unbelievingly. "You're a girl!

"Little fool! Why couldn't you leave well enough alone?"

She did not whisper now. The stranger's husky contralto voice was not angry, only bitter and sorrowful. With a quick motion she turned, vaulted over the terrace wall, and vanished into the night.

Roxanne never saw her again. The glimpse had been so brief that she doubted her ability to recognize her mysterious partner. Roxanne thought at first to tell Jack of her strange experience, but decided not to. "He'd just ridicule it, and it was beautiful, in a way. I shall keep it to myself," Roxanne decided.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8 - DOB BUSINESS MEETING - ELECTION OF OFFICERS. ALL MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. 8 P.M. AT 2174 CALIFORNIA ST., BASEMENT APARTMENT.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - WORK PARTY FOR THE LADDER. FROM NOON ON AT THE DOB OFFICE. PLEASE TRY TO DEVOTE AN HOUR OR TWO OF YOUR TIME TO THIS VITAL PROJECT.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - TRADITIONAL DOB HALLOWE'EN PARTY FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS. COSTUME OR MASK REQUIRED. CALL THE OFFICE, YUKON 2-9290 BY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, FOR RESERVATIONS.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 - GAB 'N JAVA SESSION AT 3927 ARMY ST., 8 P.M. WOMEN ONLY.

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

THE NOVEMBER ISSUE WILL CONTAIN THE OFT-ADVERTISED ARTICLE, "THE REPRESSED LESBIAN". IN ADDITION, WE PLAN TO FEATURE MAINLY POETRY, WHICH HAS BEEN TOO LONG IGNORED.

READERS RESPOND

"CONGRATULATIONS TO M.Z.B. OF TEXAS FOR HER FORTHRIGHT LETTER PUBLISHED IN THE JULY ISSUE. IT WOULD BE WELL FOR EVERY SUBSCRIBER TO READ CAREFULLY EACH MONTH THE PURPOSE OF THE D.O.B. STATED ON THE INSIDE COVER OF THE LADDER. KEEPING THESE GOALS IN MIND, THERE WILL BE NO DANGER OF DIGRESSING. A FRANK AND HONEST APPROACH IS BETTER THAN SELF-GRANDIZEMENT, WHICH SOOTHES SUPERFICIALLY BUT ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING FOR INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP. THERE IS A LONG-RANGE PROGRAM TO BE UNDERTAKEN. THE SOONER WE GET TO IT, THE BETTER FOR ALL. THIS PROGRAM MUST BE APPROACHED FROM AN HONEST STANDPOINT AND ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH INDIVIDUAL EFFORT. THE FIRST OUTWARD STEP IS THAT OF "ADVOCATING A MODE OF BEHAVIOR AND DRESS ACCEPTABLE TO SOCIETY", WHICH IS STATED AS ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF DOB.

"I LOVE NOTHING BETTER THAN SLACKS, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO PURCHASE 'CORRECT' APPAREL SINCE MANNER OF DRESS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF EVERY HUMAN BEING'S SELF-EXPRESSION.

"I HAVE PERSONALLY PROVED, IN MORE THAN A DOZEN CASES, THE IMPORTANCE OF MODE OF BEHAVIOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF DRESS IN ESTABLISHING UNDERSTANDING WITH HETEROSEXUALS. IT PAYS TO MAKE THIS SMALL CONCESSION. THE TWENTY HAPPY YEARS MY LOVED ONE AND I HAVE LIVED TOGETHER HAVE BROUGHT US LOYAL FRIENDS, BOTH HOMOSEXUAL AND HETEROSEXUAL. WE HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY HETEROSEXUALS AND LATER INFORMED BY THEM THAT THIS ACCEPTANCE, IN ITS INITIAL STAGE, WAS BASED ENTIRELY UPON APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOR. IT GIVES US A MEASURE OF SATISFACTION TO KNOW THAT, AS A COUPLE, WE HAVE DONE SOMETHING IN THIS WAY TOWARD ESTABLISHING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOMOSEXUAL.

"ANY MINORITY GROUP WISHING TO BE ACCEPTED MUST CONFORM TO THE MAJORITY GROUP WHERE FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE CONCERNED. SUCH FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE FORMED SOLELY BY OUTWARD APPEARANCE AND ACTION. THE PROPER FIRST IMPRESSION ENABLES US TO ESTABLISH A CONTACT, WHICH IN TURN GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW WHAT LIES BENEATH

THE SURFACE AND THUS REACH AN UNDERSTANDING. IF WE LESBIANS WISH TO BE ACCEPTED BY SOCIETY, WE MUST ACCEPT SOCIETY--IN THIS 'FIRST IMPRESSION' PHASE.

"ALL MINORITY GROUPS YEARN FOR UNDER STANDING. SMALL CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE RIGHT IMPRESSION PAY OFF AGAIN AND AGAIN IN IMPORTANT WAYS. IT IS EXPEDIENT TO CONFORM A LITTLE IN MINOR THINGS TO GAIN GROUND WHERE MORE SIGNIFICANT ISSUES ARE INVOLVED. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SELF-DISCIPLINE AND WHAT IS TOO OFTEN CALLED FRUSTRATION. NO INDIVIDUAL--HOMOSEXUAL OR HETEROSEXUAL--CAN ACT EXACTLY AS HE WISHES WITHOUT REGARD FOR SOCIETY.

"WE SAY WE HATE SOCIETY, YET WE YEARN FOR SOCIETY'S ACCEPTANCE.

"IF WE REBEL AGAINST SOCIETY IN THE 'FIRST IMPRESSION' PHASE, WE WILL NEVER BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE OUR POINT AND REACH THE COMMON GROUND OF UNDERSTANDING THAT RESULTS IN ACCEP-

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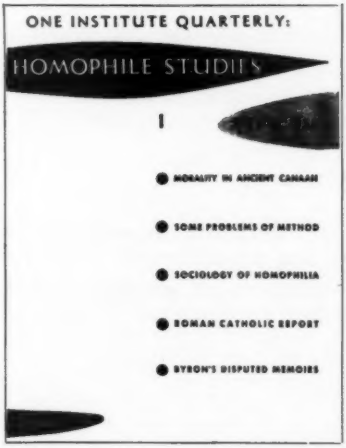

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TANCE. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO GAIN RESPECT, AND THAT IS TO EARN IT.

"THIS IS TRUE IN ANY GROUP THAT FINDS ITSELF IN THE MINORITY, WHETHER IT BE DUE TO SEXUAL PREFERENCES, RACIAL MATTERS, OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. STOP SHUNNING SOCIETY IN THIS 'FIRST IMPRESSION' PHASE AND SOCIETY WILL STOP SHUNNING YOU!

"I AM GLAD FOR THE LADDER. I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING IT AND DRINK IT IN LIKE ONE WHO IS THIRSTY. IT IS, OF COURSE, ENJOYABLE. BEYOND THAT, IT IS OF GREAT VALUE FROM THE STANDPOINT THAT IT GIVES US A LINK, A FEELING OF WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD THE SOLVING OF INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PROBLEMS, THE BREAKING DOWN OF UNDESERVING PREJUDICES, THE CORRECTING OF FALSE INFORMATION, AND THE FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF OUR RIGHT TO OUR WAY OF LIFE. THIS PUBLICATION CAN BE AN IMMENSELY IMPORTANT VEHICLE FOR GOOD AMONG OURSELVES, ASSISTING US IN REACHING THE GOALS OF THE DOB STATED ON THE INSIDE COVER OF THE LADDER. LET'S NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THESE GOALS IN ROSE-COLORED TALES THAT AVOID THE VERY THINGS WE ARE SETTING ABOUT TO CORRECT. SELF-IMPROVEMENT, NOT SELF-GRANDIZEMENT, WILL BRING US THE REWARD WE SEEK--BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OURSELVES AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR GROUP ON THE PART OF OTHERS."

Z.N. SAN LEANDRO, CALIF.

* * * * *

"I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND YOU ON YOUR WORK AND HOPE TO BE OF SOME FINANCIAL HELP IN THE FUTURE. THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH WORDS TO SAY HOW GREAT YOUR MAGAZINE IS (A CAPITAL GREAT). I DON'T SEE HOW YOU DO IT."

J.F.T. ATLANTA, GA.

* * * * *

"IT WAS WITH ANTICIPATION AND PLEASURE THAT I RECEIVED MY FIRST COPY OF THE LADDER. I WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED! IT IS A WONDERFUL FEELING TO FIND THAT OTHERS ARE ALREADY CARRYING ON A WORK THAT HAS BEEN CLOSE TO MY HEART EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER. I AM ONLY TERRIFICALLY DISAPPOINTED THAT I AM SO FAR AWAY FROM ROOM 405

IN SAN FRANCISCO, THAT I CANNOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN YOUR GROUP.

M.C., WEBSTER, NEW YORK

* * * * *

"THANKS TO YOU FOR THE MOST INTERESTING ISSUE OF THE LADDER. I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED 'MY DAUGHTER IS A LESBIAN', BY MRS. DORIS LYLES, AND BELIEVE THAT THE AUTHOR'S REPORT OF HER MARRIAGE WHICH IS TYPICAL OF SO MANY PRESENT DAY HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS, IS FAR WORSE A 'FATE' TO A WOMAN THAN LESBIANISM COULD EVER BE.

"JULE MORAY'S ADVICE IN AN 'OPEN LETTER TO SANDRA PINE' SHOULD BE TAKEN BY MANY A MEEK LESBIAN TODAY WHO IS SO FEARFUL OF SOCIETY'S SHALLOW SUSPICIONS AND OPINIONS. AS ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LESBIANA, I ADVOCATE DESCRETION BUT I DETEST THE THOUGHT OF EVER LIVING A JEKYLL AND HYDE EXISTENCE. THIS IS LIVING IN SHADOWS.

"ALSO AGREE WITH G.D. OF KANSAS CITY IN THAT I FEEL THAT MANY

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***Mattachine* REVIEW**

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WOMEN INSIST ON TOO MUCH OF A BRIDGE BETWEEN BUTCH AND FEM. IF TWO INDIVIDUALS HAVE A MEETING OF THE MIND AND EMOTIONS, A STEREOTYPE DIFFERENCE IN APPEARANCE REVEALING WHO IS THE AGGRESSOR OR THE MOST AGGRESSIVE IS NOT NECESSARY."

D.S.

* * * * *

"CHEERS, CHEERS, AND MORE CHEERS FOR OUR FRIEND, F.L., PEACH DALE, R.I.

"I SUGGEST THAT HER LITTLE 'BIT' IN THE AUGUST ISSUE BE MIMEOGRAPHED AND A COPY SENT TO EVERY LITTLE 'GAY' GIRL IN THE COUNTRY! MIGHT SMOOTH OUT A GREAT MANY EDGES IN THEIR LIVES...

"THE POINTS STRESSED UNDER NO. 8 WERE IN MY ESTIMATION VERY WELL EXPRESSED AND TO THIS I OFFER ANOTHER TRIPLE 'CHEER(..!!"

C.R., LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

* * * * *

"I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DELIGHT IN THE "READERS RESPOND" LETTER FROM F.L., PEACH DALE, R.I., WHOSE SENTIMENTS ARE MY OWN EXACTLY. THEREFORE, OF COURSE, I FIND HER A CLEAR-HEADED REALIST AND HEALTHY OPTIMIST! I REJOICE THAT SHE HAS ANSWERED MZB SO ADEQUATELY FOR ME."

A.S., KANSAS CITY, KAS.

* * * * *

"I HAVE WATCHED THE LADDER GROW IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AND WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE IT CONTINUE TO GROW. I THOROUGHLY APPROVE OF ITS PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS. THE LADDER IS ONE MEANS OF GETTING PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER AND PERHAPS THROUGH THE UNDERSTANDING WE CAN ARRIVE AT A LITTLE TENDERNESS. CONGRATULATIONS!"

D.S., BROOKLYN, N.Y.

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